

Rabies

Administering Department: Virology

Test Contact: Kari Getz 334-2235 ext 229

Purpose of Test:

To detect rabies virus in the brain tissue of an animal that has potentially exposed a human to rabies.

Method: Direct fluorescent antibody test

Sample and Submission Guidelines:

It is critical that specimens be tested as soon as possible

Specimen must be accompanied by Rabies Laboratory Submittal Form

Euthanasia of animal must occur in the most humane method possible. Methods to avoid damaging the head are to be employed so that brain tissue is intact.

Submit only the head if animal weighs over 8 lbs or a \$50.00 disposal fee will be charged.

No whole animal weighing over 20 lbs. will be accepted.

Double bag specimen in heavy plastic bags, wrap in absorbent material, place into rigid insulated container with "blue ice" to keep cool. Do not freeze.

Ship as "Diagnostic Specimen" using the quickest shipping method available.

Send to the Idaho Agriculture Lab, 2230 Old Penitentiary Rd, Boise, ID 83712

Possible Results and Meaning:

Positive for Rabies Virus (all positive results will be immediately reported by telephone)

Negative – no virus detected.

Charge for test:

No charge for testing; \$50.00 carcass disposal fee if "whole" animal over 8 lbs. submitted

Turn-Around-Time: 12-24 hours (M-F); weekend testing for exposure to bats.

Links: CDC Rabies Web Site www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies

Idaho State Agriculture Laboratory (208)332-8570

